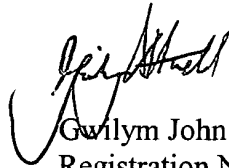


Notwithstanding the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the twelve groups of claims set forth by the Examiner are amenable to further grouping and that such further grouping would not impose a serious burden on the Examiner.

Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the claims encompassed by any of the non-elected groups in future divisional applications.

The examination of these claims and passage to allowance are respectfully requested. An early Notice of Allowance is therefore earnestly solicited. Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned at (215) 665-6904 to clarify any unresolved issues raised by this response.

Respectfully submitted,



Gwilym John Owen Attwell  
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Date: September 30, 2002

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